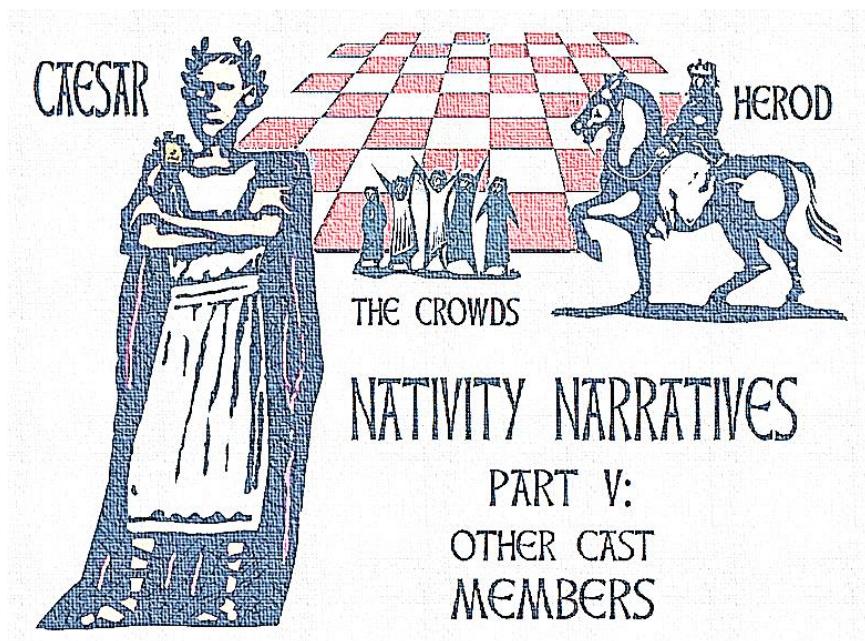


# Happy New Year 2023!



## NATIVITY NARRATIVES

### PART V: OTHER CAST MEMBERS

*"Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city."*

—Luke, 2:1-3 (NASB)

VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF ARMAGH, PA  
JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, AD 2023

# The LORD'S Day

The First Day of January, *in the Year of our Lord 2023*

## New Year's Day

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Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship: \* “*O God our Help in Ages Past*” (#48, v. 1).

Invocation.\*

Hymn: “*Joy to the World*” (#117).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: “*Little Baby Jesus*” (#129).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: “*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*” (#123).

Dismissal of Youth for Children’s Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: “*Nativity Narratives: The Others.*”

Closing Hymn: \* “*Away in a Manger*” (#131).

Benediction.\*



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\*The Congregation will please arise, if able.



**Pastor: Terry L. Reese**  
**Blog: <https://reesepastor.blogspot.com>**

**Phone: (814) 254-6734**

**Church: (814) 446-6685**

**Address: PO Box 178; Armagh, PA 15920**

**Facebook: [@valleygbcarmagh](#)**

**Web: <https://valleygbcarmaghpa.webs.com>**

**Downloadable audio mp3 messages at [archive.org \(@reesetpje\)](#)**

**Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!**



### **Week of Dec. 24 - Dec. 31**

No Sunday School;      Christmas Day Morning Worship—8

Midweek Prayer—4;      Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—13

### **Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—6:30 PM.**

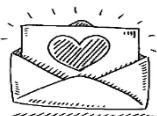
We continue our studies in Daniel 5 as the mysterious handwriting appears upon the wall!



### **Today's Verse for Reflection:**

**"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him."—John 1:10 (ESV)**

### **Sarah Rager's new address:**



Sarah Rager  
272 Rager Rd.  
Vitondale, PA, 15961

**"That there was no room in the inn was symbolic of what was to happen to Jesus. The only place there was room for Him was on the Cross."—William Barclay**

**"The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation." —J.I. Packer**

**"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy—HE, the Word—without Whom all human eloquence is mute."—Augustine of Hippo**

# **“WHAT IF...”**



**...Jesus Christ had *NEVER* been born?”**



- 1. If Jesus had never been born**, then we would be left to wonder if God’s many **PROMISES**—given in the form of hundreds of Old Testament prophecies—had either failed or require some sort of drastic re-interpretation!
- 2. If Jesus had never been born**, then the true **Character** of God would still be veiled unto us. Fortunately, however, God is revealed unto us most perfectly in the Person of CHRIST Incarnate! *John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
- 3. If Jesus had never been born**, the world would still be in **darkness**—without certain knowledge of its Creator or His ways—and world civilization would not know the softening and benevolent effects of the **Biblical Ethic**...
4. Most importantly: **If Jesus had never been born**...then we would be utterly **LOST**, without **HOPE**, and still in our **SINS** (*1Cor. 15:17*)!